

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicant amends claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 3 and cancels claim 3. Applicant also cancels claims 5 and 24, and amends claims 1, 4, 11-15, 22, 25, and 27.

Therefore, claims 1, 2, 4, 6-17, 19-23, and 25-28 are all the claims pending in the application.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 6, 7, 16, 17, 19-21, and 23 are allowed and for indicating that claims 3, 4, 11, and 27 contain allowable subject matter. For at least the following reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 2, 8-10, 12-15, 22, 25, 26, and 28 are also patentable.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 5, 8-10, 12-15, 22, 24-26, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kavanagh (U.S. Patent 6,809,726) in view of Cok (U.S. Patent 7,106,307).

Claims 1, 2, 8-10, 26, and 28

As discussed above, Applicant amends claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 3, which the Examiner has indicated is allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and its dependent claims should be deemed patentable.

Claims 5, 12-15, 22, 24, and 25

The rejection of claims 5 and 24 is moot, as claims 5 and 24 have been cancelled.

Applicant amends claims 12-15, 22, and 25 to depend from claim 6, which the Examiner has indicated is allowed. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 12-15, 22, and 25 should be deemed patentable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-4, 11, 16, and 27 are objected to as allegedly being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant rewrites claim 27 into independent form, as the Examiner suggests, and respectfully submits that claim 27 should be deemed patentable.

As discussed above, Applicant amends claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 3, which the Examiner has indicated is allowable, and cancels claim 3. Applicant amends claims 4 and 11 to depend from claim 1, and respectfully submits that claims 4 and 11 should be deemed patentable.

Claims 6-7, 16-17, 19-21 and 23 are allowed.

Applicant respectfully notes that the Examiner indicates that claim 16 is both allowed and objected to. Applicant respectfully submits that since claim 16 depends on claim 6, which is allowed, claim 16 should also be deemed patentable.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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